



# On Colossians

By

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# The Need

My favorite way of teaching from the Bible is "verse by verse." After leaving atheism for Christianity I came across a variety of preaching/teaching styles. I didn't know what they were called in my early months as a believer, but verse-by-verse ended up being the one that made the most sense to me. I knew what something meant not only because of the definition of words, but because of its "context."

Expository preaching or teaching is the process of blending the best *hermeneutics* ([Bible study method](#)) to the best *homiletics* (preaching/teaching method) to present a sermon or lesson that is accurate to the text and context in a way that communicates the truth clearly and powerfully and can be understood and applied by the hearer. As one author has explained expository preaching: "*expository preaching is preaching in which the content, intent, and structure of the passage determines the content, intent, and structure of the message.*" (Matthew Harmon, *Expository Preaching*)

Once the preacher/teacher has carefully studied a Book of the Bible verse by verse, they can teach from it verse by verse or topically. The danger of topical preaching/teaching is when the preacher/teacher is not familiar with what the text means in its context. Many errors rise from that kind of topical preaching/teaching. To someone experienced in proper Bible study, it becomes fairly easy (and often painful) to tell when someone is preaching/teaching out of context. Teaching out of context leads to error and misuse of God's Word. Teaching in context leads to truth and correct use of God's

Word. The extra time it takes to study a Book in context seems well worth the end result.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Ephesians 4:14

This next series of *Teaching Notes* is from a sermon series taught more than 40 years ago. We studied Paul's Letter to the Colossians carefully verse-by-verse, then presented our discoveries in a series of topical studies that came naturally from this great Letter. Our prayer is that it will be clear and powerful and you will understand it and want to apply the principles to your life. As with other *Teaching Notes*, we invite you to use this study in any way God leads.

## I. The Report (1:1-8)

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colossae: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who

is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit."

### A. The People

1. Paul the Apostle
2. Timothy the Disciple
3. Epaphras the Evangelist

### B. The Place - Colossae

1. In the Lycus Valley
2. Near Laodicea and Hierapolis
3. 100 miles east of Ephesus

### C. The Passage - Epaphras goes to Rome to see Paul

### D. The Purpose

1. To help and serve Paul while he (Paul) is in prison
2. To make known the progress of the Colossian Christians and their problems

## II. The Problem (2:1-23)

"For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in

love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary

humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglect."

### A. The People Deluded (4)

The word "delude" literally means *to reason falsely*.

It speaks here of being led to accept untruth through false reasoning and persuasive arguing.

### B. The People Deceived (8)

The words "empty deception" speak of a deceit that has no profit to it. Not only is it deceitful, but it is also unprofitable. "Elementary principles of the world' were the delusive speculations of Gentile cults and Jewish theories that were presented as superior to Christ.

### C. The People Judged (16)

A judge is someone who would decide whether something was right or wrong, good or evil. No one is to do that to a Christian because only God and His Word are our judge.

## D. The People Defrauded (18) (20-22)

To defraud someone is to rob them of something. Paul is saying here, "Don't let anyone rob you of your prize." (The word prize means reward.) Was Paul speaking of Christ as the prize? Can a Christian be robbed of Christ? (ask audience) Was Paul speaking of salvation as the prize? Can a Christian be robbed of his or her salvation? (ask audience) What then was the prize that these Christians could be robbed of? (ask audience) That's right! It is the reward that will be ours at the Bema Seat (Judgment Seat) of Christ.

## III. The Solution (1:15-23, 28; 4:12)

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away

from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister."

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

#### A. Doctrine -- Exalting Christ as Creator Lord

#### B. Practice -- Maturing Saints

### IV. The Application

A. Don't allow yourself to be deluded, deceived, judged or defrauded by anyone. Know the doctrine of God's Word and stand on it with full assurance.

B. Continually evaluate your walk with God to see if there is a process of maturity.

### V. The Commitment

Please bow your heads and quietly evaluate your walk with God:

1. Have you allowed yourself to be deluded, deceived, judge or defrauded by anyone in or outside of the Christian church?
2. Are you now in a growing process of maturity in your walk with the Lord?

# The Deliverance

## I. The Transfer

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Colossians 1:12-13

To be delivered from the "power of darkness" means that we were rescued from the authority of Satan's kingdom. Another way of translating this would be, "God has rescued us from the domination and powerful tyranny of Satan."

Job 1:12 - Job was a servant of the most high God and was deeply loved by the Lord. Satan told God that if he were to put forth His hand and take away what he had, that Job would curse God to His face. So, the Lord said to Satan - "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord."

Luke 4:6 - Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness for forty days. The devil took Jesus up into a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. He turned to Jesus and said - "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it." Jesus did not dispute the fact that Satan had the power he claimed. Of course, it's important to noticed that he said, "for that is delivered unto me." Satan received the right to such power from a higher source, who was God. In the Bible we get a pretty

close look at the power and dominion of Satan. In 2 Corinthians he is called the "god of this world." In Matthew he called the "prince of devils." In Ephesians he is called the "prince of the power of the air." In John he is called the "prince of this world." And in Ephesians 6 he is called the "ruler of darkness."

Acts 26:18 - The Apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa and told him about his wonderful conversion on the road to Damascus. Paul also related the words that the Lord Jesus had spoken to him that day - "But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

Following this rescue from the domination of Satan came a transference or **removal** to the kingdom of Christ Jesus. The word "transfer" speaks of a removal from one situation or place to another. We have been taken from one kingdom, that of Satan, and have been rescued and transferred to another kingdom, that of Christ. The word "kingdom" is primarily an abstract noun, denoting sovereignty, royal power, or dominion. Jesus rules in eternity as the absolute sovereign. Jesus rules in eternity as the absolute sovereign. Jesus rules in the physical universe as the royal power from whom even Satan must receive permission to exercise his power and authority. Jesus rules in the hearts and lives of His people as their Lord and King.

The words "of His beloved son" are better translated "of the Son of His love." The Son, Jesus Christ, is the object of the Father's love, and to who, therefore, the kingdom is given. (Hebrews 1:1-13)

## **II. The Redemption**

We have redemption in Christ, which is further explained as the forgiveness of sins. *Redemption* means a releasing for a ransom, a freedom upon payment." We have been bought up by Christ through His sacrifice on the Cross and have been released from the bondage of sin and death. We have been totally and completely forgiven of all our sins: past, present and future. In Ephesians 1:7, the Apostle Paul wrote - "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

You and I are redeemed! Where we once were under the condemnation of God, we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

# The Inheritance

We move now in our series to the special inheritance we have in Christ Jesus. This series of studies was first taught more than 40 years ago as part of a verse-by-verse study that became a series of topical insights from Paul's great Letters to the Christians in Colossae and Ephesus. Our prayer is that this study will be clear and powerful and help you in your life.

As with other *Teaching Notes*, we invite you to use this study in any way God leads.

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light." Colossians 1:12

## I. The Qualification of our Inheritance

### A. The Qualifier

The King James Version translates the Greek word *hikano* as "meet." The word means "make sufficient, render fit, qualify." We were *rendered fit* or "made sufficient" to share in this inheritance by God the Father. There was no possible way we could have qualified ourselves for the inheritance of the saints. We were totally depraved, totally out of harmony with God, and completely hostile toward God. When the human race, through Adam, fell into sin, it became totally depraved. The Fall blinded man's mind, hardened his heart, disordered his affections, corrupted his conscience, disabled his will, and brought him in total opposition to God's will.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:1-7

The word "qualified" is in the aorist tense and pictures a once-for-all act of God.

### **B. The Qualified**

Those who are *qualified* for the inheritance are the "saints" of God. Paul wrote the Colossians and reminded them that they shared in the great inheritance with all of God's "called out ones."

### **C. The Inheritance**

The *inheritance* spoken of here is our "lot or portion" in the Kingdom of God. (Explain how an estate is divided up equally among heirs)

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." Ephesians 1:11

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory ... The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints." Ephesians 1:13-14, 18

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:3-4

## **II. The Light of our Inheritance**

### **A. Before We Received The Inheritance**

One of the most revealing statements concerning the unsaved man is found in Ephesians 5:8 where Paul wrote, "For ye were sometimes darkness." The verb here is in the emphatic position. Paul is not saying that

we were once just "in" darkness, but that we were actually "darkness ourselves!" He wasn't saying that we were lost in darkness groping around looking for light, but that we were the darkness.

## **B. After We Received The Inheritance**

Reading on in verse 8 of Ephesians 5, Paul wrote - "but now are ye light in the Lord." Again, Paul is not saying that Christians are just "in" the light, but that they actually "are light!" Expositors reads, "The completeness of the change is indicated again by the use of the abstract term --- so possessed and penetrated were they by that truth that they could be described not simply as enlightened but as themselves now light."

"Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." Philippians 2:14-15

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

Let's remember these words from the Apostle Paul to the Colossians -

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good

work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light." Colossians 1:9-12

# The Power

The next part in our series of topical studies from Paul's Letter to the Colossians is the *power* we have in Christ Jesus. This series of studies was first taught more than 40 years ago as part of a verse-by-verse study that became a series of topical insights from Paul's great Letters to the Christians in Colossae and Ephesus. Our prayer is that this study will be clear and powerful and help you in your life.

## I. The Source of the Power

“Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” Colossians 1:11

### A. “strengthened with all might”

The verb “strengthened”(dunamoó) means “to be empowered, filled with power, enabled for something.”

Paul also wrote to the Ephesians about the importance of being “strengthened” with might –

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ

may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19

The noun “power” is an inherent power which resides in us by virtue of our new nature.

## **B. “according to His glorious might”**

The word “according” means *dominated by*. Our strength and power are to be dominated by “His glorious might.” The glory here stands for the majesty and greatness of God. The word “might” translates as *a relative and manifested power*.

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” Colossians 1:28-29

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,

and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.” Ephesians 1:15-19

## II. The Purpose of the Power

### A. “for the attaining of all steadfastness”

The word “steadfastness” means *longsuffering*. It literally translates as “long temper.” Long-suffering is that quality of self restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish. It is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy, and is used of God in many places plus enjoined of saints.

“And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.” Exodus 34:6

“The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.” Numbers 14:18

“But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.” Psalm 86:15

It is also enjoined of the saints:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22

“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.” Ephesians 4:2

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” Colossians 3:12

(Point attention back to context of “walk worthy of the Lord.”)

## **B. “and patience”**

Patience is literally “an abiding under” and is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances nor succumb under trial. It is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope. This word is used specifically with saints and believers.

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.” Romans 12:10-12

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul pointed out that the first quality of love is patience.

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.” 1 Thessalonians 5:14

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.” 2 Timothy 2:24

# The Walk

We are coming to the end of our series in the Paul's Letter to the Colossians. This series of studies was first taught more than 40 years ago as part of a verse-by-verse study that became a series of topical insights from Paul's great Letters to the Christians in Colossae and Ephesus.

## I. The Filling

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Colossians 1:9

### A. The Knowledge of His Will

This means to be filled up full with the advanced and special knowledge of the will of God. Paul was showing that Christians have access to the true knowledge that was superior to all others. The will of God speaks of His will in matters of Christian behavior and lifestyle.

### B. Full Saints and Empty Saints

1. Full saints are spoken of throughout the Scriptures. In Psalm 23, King David said that the Lord prepared a table for him in the presence of his enemies, anointed his head with oil, and ran his cup of life full and overflowing. In Malachi 3:10, the Lord promised to fill His people up with blessings to the point where they couldn't stand it anymore. In John 15:11, Jesus said that He wanted His disciples to have His joy in them to remain and be full. In Ephesians 3:19, the Apostle Paul

prayed that the saints would be filled up full with all the fullness of God. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul exhorted the Christians to be filled and controlled by the Spirit of God. And in Colossians 1:9, Paul prayed that the saints would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

2. Empty saints are one of the saddest stories in the Scriptures. Probably the saddest of all is the life story of King Solomon:

"The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us. There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after. I the Preacher was

king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered. I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow. I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity. I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it? I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life. I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees :I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as

musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." Ecclesiastes 1:1 - 2:11

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul exhorted the saints not to walk any longer as the unsaved people walked in emptiness of life and thought.

## **II. The Fruit**

### **A. The Walking**

The word "walk" means *to order one's behavior* or *to conduct one's self*. The walk of a Christian is his behavior and conduct before a watching God and a waiting world. The Bible is filled with examples of what the Christian walk should be. Romans 6:4 says that we are to "walk in newness of life." 2 Corinthians 5:7 says that we are to "walk by faith, not by sight." In Galatians 5:16, Paul wrote "walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." In Ephesians 4:1, he wrote "walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called." In Ephesians 5:1-2, Paul wrote "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." In verse 15, he wrote "be careful how you walk." In 1 John 2:6, the apostle wrote "the one who says he abides in

Christ ought himself to walk in the same manner as Jesus walked." In Colossians 1:10, Paul wrote that he wanted to see the saints walking "in a manner worthy of the Lord."

This means that we should behave or conduct ourselves in a way which would be worthy of Christ. What does the word "worthy" mean? It means "having the weight of another thing." It means being of like value or worth as much. The saints were told that their conduct should be like the conduct of the Lord. Their behavior should weigh as much as His.

### **B. The Pleasing**

What does it mean to "please Him in all respects"? It means that what we do delights Him and brings Him enjoyment. We are to please Him in every possible way. The Scriptures have much to say about pleasing God and the rewards for such behavior. In Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, he wrote, "we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus." In that same Book, Paul wrote "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." In 1 John 3:22, the apostle wrote "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

### **C. The Bearing**

What does it mean to "bear fruit in every good work"? This means that our life of delighting the Lord and conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of

Him will bear fruit in every good work. In John 15, Jesus said "I am the Vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in Him, he bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing." He also said "You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you." In Ephesians 2:10, Paul wrote "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Bearing fruit in every good work is the natural outgrowth of a Christian who is walking a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in all respects.

#### **D. The Increasing**

What does it mean to increase in the knowledge of God? It means to continually grow in the full perception of God's truth.

### **III. The Applying**

Paul prayed for those saints more than 1,900 years ago. That's more than 19 centuries ago, but the need is still there and God's Word still meets the need. Each one of us needs to be filled with the knowledge of His will. Each one of us needs to conduct ourselves in a manner that is worthy of the Lord. Each one of us needs to please God in every respect, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

### **IV. The Committing**

Let's bow our heads for a few quiet moments and listen to the voice of God. How is it with your soul tonight? Are you in the process of Christian

maturity? Are you a filled saint? Are you walking in a way that pleases your Savior? What about your conduct these last few weeks and months? Is your behavior of the same value as Christ's? Are you bearing fruit in every good work? Are you increasing in the knowledge of God? Let's wait upon the Lord and allow His voice to penetrate our hearts.

[Thank you for reading these teaching notes from more than 40 years ago. My prayer is they will be a blessing to you, your family and your ministry.]